

National Park Service  
2014 Environmental Achievement Awards

**Winner**

**Mr. Dutch Story, North Cascades National Park**  
*Sustainability Hero*

The Stehekin District of the North Cascades National Park Complex (NOCA) is accessible only by foot, boat, or plane. All materials, supplies, and equipment are delivered via a barge that must travel 50 miles to reach the district. It is therefore of great importance both to the budget of the park and its greenhouse gas footprint that consumption at Stehekin be kept to a minimum, and materials are reused whenever possible. Mr. Story has been a champion for these ideals at NOCA, and has achieved great successes in source reduction, reuse, and recycling.

Many of the actions that Mr. Story affected in FY2013 have borne concrete results:

- **Electric Vehicle** - Mr. Story conducted research and developed the case for replacing the park's gasoline pickup truck with a fully electric vehicle. He created a system for tracking the usage and energy draw of this vehicle for comparison with energy used by the gasoline truck. Since the electric vehicle is charged off the on-site hydro power plant, it operates at an emission-free electricity cost of \$0.016/mile (compared to \$0.28/mile and 2.5 MTCO<sub>2</sub>E annually with the pickup truck).
- **Composting** – Mr. Story has as developed numerous successful proposals and secured funds for providing park staff with composting training, installing bear-proof barrel composters at park housing, and constructing large-scale worm bins for both NPS and community vermicomposting. Based on the performance of these systems so far, park staff anticipate up to 2.5 tons of food waste will be diverted from the landfill in FY14.
- **Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling** – Mr. Story has been a creative advocate for solid waste reduction and recycling both inside the park an in the surrounding community. For a NOCA visitor center, he created a piece using furniture and appliance packaging corners, which were painted and reused to frame a view through the gallery window. He created three-dimensional how-to informational displays by reusing materials to communicate which types of items were recyclable and provide guidance on how to sort and separate recyclable items. In FY2013 the solid waste diversion rate at Stehekin increased 10% over the previous year.

In addition to leading sustainability education for park staff, Mr. Story has lead projects at local schools to teach students about composting through hands on experience. Mr. Story embodies a positive example of how one person's energy can affect great change, and inspire others not just within the park service, but in our communities at large.